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CENTRAL AND PERMANENT COMMITTEE

OF THE

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

At a Meeting of the Central and Permanent Committee of the District of Montreal, in Convention assembled at the City of Montreal, on the fourth day of September, 1834, according to public notice previously given, Joseph Roy, Esq., *President*, in the Chair, Louis Coursolles, Esq., (Delegate from the County of Two Mountains,) *Vice-President*, C. Ov. Perrault, Esq., and Dr. O'Callaghan, *Secretaries*, the names of the several Delegates in attendance inscribed on the Roll, and the Minutes of the last Meeting read, the Secretary reported that he had transmitted to London, according to the orders of the Convention, copies of the Resolutions passed at the last Meeting, to their respective addresses.

The President then informed the Convention that, since they had met in July, several letters had been received from Messrs. Viger and Morin, the Agents for the Province in London, which were accordingly read, and ordered to be entered on the Minutes. After which, the Secretary proceeded to read a letter from J. A. Roebuck, Esq., M. P., to the Central and Permanent Committee, dated London, July 5, 1834; which being finished, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That copies of this day's proceedings be transmitted to John Arthur Roebuck, Esq., M. P., together with the thanks of this Meeting, for the vigilance and zeal which he has manifested in behalf of this country, and for the lively interest which he takes in its affairs, praying him to continue his efforts for the procuring a responsible form of Government for this Province.

REPORT OF CANADA COMMITTEE.

The President next announced, that the Committee of the House of Commons, to whom were referred the complaints of this Province, had concluded their labours, and made a Report; a copy of which was accordingly laid on the Table.

Whereupon the same was taken into consideration, and the following Resolutions unanimously adopted.

On motion of J. N. Cardinal, Esq., Delegate for Laprairie County; seconded by Mr. Vincent, of Longueuil.

1. *Resolved*, That this Meeting having taken the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons of the 3d July last, on the affairs of this Province, into mature consideration, are of opinion, that although that document has been drawn up in a vague and general style, yet they hope for Reform, inasmuch as it seems to have been agreed to by the Committee under a knowledge of the liberal policy entertained and professed by Mr.

SPRING RICE; and because the Committee considered it of extreme importance that a perfect reconciliation of existing differences should take place, and expressed their earnest hope that the misconceptions occasioning them may be removed under the mature care of the present Colonial Secretary, the responsible officer for the adoption of practical measures for the future better Government of this Province.

On motion of the same; seconded by Dr. VALLOIS,—

2. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the various grievances of which the country complains arise from an imperfect and vicious Colonial system which does not afford any means within itself of preventing or checking political abuses, or of bringing to an account and punishing public delinquents, there exists no guarantee against the recurrence of those grievances, unless the said system be so far modified as to render the local authorities responsible for their acts to the people of this Province, and by the extension of Elective institutions furnish the country with the means of peaceably removing from office such of the Legislative and other functionaries as may have justly forfeited public confidence.

On motion of the same; seconded by Dr. LACROIX,—

3. *Resolved*, Therefore, that however well inclined to confide in the professions of the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, (to which confidence he is, to a certain degree, entitled by his early abandonment of Mr. STANLEY's threatened usurpation of the right in the British Parliament to tax the Colonies, and by the advices which the CONVENTION have received from Messrs. ROEBUCK, VIGER, MORIN, and other friends of this country,) yet this meeting cannot honestly perform the duty it owes its constituents without frankly and publicly declaring that no measure of Reform can produce permanent satisfaction, nor remove the existing "misconceptions," and "difficulties," unless it is based upon the recommendations contained in the Petition of the House of Assembly, lately presented to the House of Commons, praying for an extension of the Elective principle in the Government of this Province.

On motion of the same; seconded by —— MASSON, Esq.

4. *Resolved*, That this Meeting learns, with feelings of profound regret and disappointment, that the Committee did not consider it expedient to lay before the House of Commons the evidence of the witnesses examined, or the documents which have been placed before them, as publicity is the greatest, if not the only, security, to a distant people, against intrigues, jobs, abuse of power, and misrepresentations on the part of their Colonial rulers, frequently sent for the purpose of repairing their broken fortunes, and who, in a spirit of animosity, have often been known to have prejudiced His Majesty's Government against the inhabitants of the Colonies; and that in the present instance in particular, when an almost unanimous people accused the Provincial Administration of high crimes, it was due both to accusers and accused that the evidence and documents aforesaid should not be suppressed.

On motion of the same; seconded by Mr. A. GIROD,—

5. *Resolved*, That the Colonial Secretary is hereby respectfully requested to procure for the information of His Majesty's subjects in this Colony the production of the said evidence and documents before the House of Commons, and should he, contrary to the expectations of the people of this country, not act on the above request, Messrs. HUME, O'CONNELL, and ROEBUCK, are earnestly and respectfully required to move for the same.

Ordered, That copies of the above be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary, and to Messrs. HUME, O'CONNELL, ROEBUCK, and to Messrs. VIGER and MORIN.

The Sub-Committee charged with drawing up a reply to the Speech of His Excellency Lord AYLMER to the Deputation from Tattersall's, and Ob-

servations on the Speech delivered by Mr. STANLEY in the House of Commons on the 15th April, handed in a pamphlet, which had been prepared and printed under their superintendence; and the same was ordered to be distributed throughout the Province.

BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY.

It was then announced to the CONVENTION, that advices had been received since the last meeting, conveying the intelligence that the Royal Sanction had been given to the Bill Incorporating the BRITISH AMERICAN COMPANY; whereupon Mr. GIROD, one of the Delegates from the County of Vercheres, came forward, and stated that he had prepared a series of Resolutions condemnatory of the alienation of the public property of this Province to a Company of foreign speculators, without the consent, and against the will of the people, whose property the lands in question are, and that he would submit the same with the permission of the meeting.

The Resolutions referred to were then read, one by one, and severally adopted unanimously. They are as follow:

1. *Resolved*, That this Committee, whilst persisting in the Resolutions which it adopted in its meeting of the second July last, relative to the passing of the Act Incorporating the Land Company, seizes this opportunity of expressing its deep regret that the said Bill has received the Royal Sanction.

2. *Resolved*, That this meeting cannot consider the interference of the Imperial Parliament in the local affairs of this country, and in matters within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature, otherwise than as a violation of the Constitutional rights of the people of this country, and of the promises made by the Right Honourable Lord Viscount GODERICH, formerly Secretary for the Colonies, in his Despatch of the 7th July, 1831.

3. *Resolved*, That this violation of the promises and engagements of the Colonial Office towards this country, and the House of Assembly is in the opinion of this meeting the more flagrant, the more oppressive, and exhibits the greater contempt for the people of this Province and their Legislature, inasmuch as it was committed against the will and desire of the inhabitants of the country, expressly manifested by Resolutions unanimously passed by their Representatives in the Session of 1832—Resolutions which have since been renewed in the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, and supported by the people in their Petitions to the Imperial Parliament.

4. *Resolved*, That, independent of other Acts, which have rendered the Administration of the late Mr. Secretary STANLEY deservedly odious to the people of this Province, the approbation which he has given to the passing of the Land Company Bill, the favour which he showed towards those who solicited it—the open protection which he has given to those who, to avoid all opposition to their projects, have effected the passing of the said law secretly and clandestinely, suffice to impress upon that Administration an indelible stain, and affix thereto the seal of reprobation.

5. *Resolved*, That this meeting confidently demands, from the liberal views of the new Colonial Secretary, and the opinions which he has recently expressed on an analogous subject, that he will obtain from the Imperial Parliament the repeal of so much of the aforesaid Act as concerns Lower Canada, and thereby remove one of the sources of discontent most poignantly and most generally felt, and which has been created throughout this Province by the impudent temerity of his predecessor.

6. *Resolved*, That, whilst confidently awaiting this Act of Justice, this meeting invites the Electors of the different Counties to exact from those who may offer to represent them, a formal pledge that they will use all their efforts to oppose, by all legitimate means, the operations of the aforesaid Land Company, and that they will not cease their exertions until they shall

have obtained the repeal of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, by virtue of which it has been incorporated, so far as Lower Canada is concerned.

7. *Resolved*, That this meeting regards as *null* the title obtained by the said Land Company, and invites the Provincial Legislature, at its next Session, to declare such nullification, and to adopt every other means in their power, which their wisdom may suggest, to protect the people of this coun ry against this invasion of their rights as long as it may continue.

8. *Resolved*, That the inhabitants of this Province are, moreover, earnestly invited to use all legitimate means at their disposal to arrest the progress of the prevailing system of speculation and monopoly, whereby covetous and privileged shareholders, by virtue of Legislative provisions, pretend to sell by auction, and to dispose of for purposes of trade, a considerable extent of land, the most easy of access, and the most susceptible of early settlement by the youth of the country, from the approach to which they have been hitherto shut out by the partial distribution of the same in favour of a certain class of persons, which has been pursued with systematic perseverance until completed by the passation by the Imperial Parliament of the recent Act now alluded to.

Ordered, That copies of the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary for the Colonies, and to Messrs. VIGER, MORIN, and ROEBUCK.

A Sub-Committee was then appointed, consisting of three members, to report, at the next meeting of the CONVENTION, a Memorial, setting forth the evil consequences which must necessarily result, as well to the permanent as to the emigrant population, from the establishment of the British American Land Company.

CHOLERA.

After the above Resolutions were thus disposed of, the CONVENTION proceeded to take into their consideration the ravages lately committed throughout the Country by the *Asiatic Cholera*, together with the existing Quarantine regulations, and the refusal of His Excellency the Governor in Chief to extend the provisions of the Quarantine Act to this City, or to advance the necessary sums for the relief of the suffering Emigrants as prayed to do by the Corporation of Montreal, on motion of TURTON PENN, Esquire, a Member of the Common Council; after which the following Resolutions were introduced and passed *nem. con.* after a somewhat lengthy discussion.

Proposed by Dr. MASSON, seconded by Dr. LACROIX,—

1. *Resolved*, That since the last sitting of this Convention, thousands of our fellow-countrymen have fallen victims to Asiatic Cholera, the ravages of which have not as yet entirely ceased.

2. *Resolved*, That the introduction of that scourge into this Country in 1832, and this year, may be traced to a defective system of Quarantine, and to the debarkation on our shores of an unlimited and forced poor Emigration crowded hitherto into vessels in which the space allowed to each passenger rarely exceeded three feet square, a prey to famine and other sufferings inseparable from such a state of things, proceeding from the deception and inhumanity of the jobbers who profit by such speculation, such jobbers having in many instances exacted and received from the said Emigrants, contrary to law, a capitation tax of ten shillings per adult; which money they or their agents have refused to refund.

On motion of the same, seconded by Dr. CHENIER,

3. *Resolved*, That this meeting does not hesitate to adopt the opinions put forth in the preceding Resolution, inasmuch as the Asiatic Cholera invariably followed the line of Emigration both in 1832 and 1834, from Quebec to Detroit, and broke out first in the principal towns where the Emigrants landed,

and thence throughout the parishes, the inhabitants whereof had communication with the towns.

On motion of the same, seconded by Mr. BOUCHER BELLEVILLE,

4. *Resolved*, That this meeting has learned with indignation the refusal of His Excellency MATTHEW Lord AYLMER to accede to the demand of the Corporation of Montreal made on the 14th July last, praying that the provisions of the Quarantine Act should be extended to the said City, and that it should be furnished with means to paralize the violence of the Epidemic, and to relieve the poor suffering Emigrants.

On motion of the same, seconded by A. PAPINEAU, Esquire,

5. *Resolved*, That it is as much the interest of the Emigrants as of Lower and Upper Canada and the United States, wherein Cholera was introduced through the medium of this Province, to adopt prompt and efficacious measures to prevent the return of that dreadful disease.

On motion of the same, seconded by JOSEPH VINCENT, Esquire,

6. *Resolved*, That among those measures it appears to this Committee a matter of a great necessity that the Imperial Parliament should pass more efficacious laws than already exist for the regulation of the number of Emigrants proportionate to the tonnage of vessels, and adopt, besides, similar provisions to those in force in the United States to prevent the lives of the Emigrants being sacrificed to selfish Speculators.

On motion of the same, seconded by Mr. BOURASSA,

7. *Resolved*, That this country has more than ever to regret that the Royal sanction has not been given to the Bill for the Relief of Emigrants, passed in the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, and reserved, inasmuch as the Emigrants cast on our Shores in a state of poverty, weakness and suffering, exposed to famine, and a prey to disease, have thereby become a grievous burden to the citizens who have their own poor to support—whilst had the act referred to been sanctioned, the revenues derived therefrom being entirely employed for the support of Hospitals for the reception of such of the said Emigrants as may be sick, and to forward those whose means may be scanty, to their place of destination, this Province would not have been burdened with a compulsory obligation, whilst the poor and sick Emigrants would have been more effectually relieved.

On motion of the same, seconded by Mr. GIROD,

8. *Resolved*, That the example of the United States where wise Quarantine Laws are strictly executed, proves the possibility by similar laws, to prevent the introduction of the disease into this Province, provided the Administration of this Country be desirous of putting similar laws in execution, and be really anxious not to sacrifice the happiness and lives of the inhabitants to the supposed interests of trade.

On motion of the same, seconded by Dr. CHENIER,

9. *Resolved*, That should the House of Assembly make Legislative provisions to establish a strict system of Quarantine, and should the same be rejected by the Legislative Council as heretofore, and should measures not be introduced in the Imperial Parliament to regulate the proportion of passengers to each vessel, and to enforce the same, it is to be hoped that the Congress of the United States will adopt measures, which, whilst they have the effect of protecting those who live under its Laws, may show to the Mother Country the necessity of protecting the inhabitants of this Country.

Ordered, That Copies of the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary for the Colonies, and Messrs. VIGER, MORIN and ROEBUCK.

APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE.

The system of nomination to office, pursued by His Excellency the present Governor in Chief, was next brought under the consideration of the Convention, together with the recent appointment of SAMUEL GALE, Esquire, to the Bench of this District, on which subject the Committee passed unanimously the following Resolutions, each of which were duly proposed and sasonded.

1. *Resolved*, That for a series of years, the people of this country have, both by Petitions to the Imperial Parliament, and through their Representatives complained of the partiality observed by the Executive of this Province in the distribution of several places of honor and profit in the gift of the Crown, from which His Majesty's subjects of French origin have been systematically and unjustly excluded, and which have, in most instances, been bestowed on other classes, and especially on those who by property or otherwise are least connected with the interests of the country, and who have on all occasions been most violently opposed to the rights and liberties of the people.

2. *Resolved*, That after having thus frequently complained, it pleased His Majesty at length to take the subject into consideration, as appears from a despatch from Lord Viscount Goderich, the then Colonial Secretary, dated 7th July, 1831, in which the people of this Province received the assurance of His Majesty's Government, that "if it could be shewn that the patronage of the Crown had been experienced upon narrow, and exclusive principles, they ought not be too soon disavowed, and *abandoned;* especially if it were true that the fixed population of the colony had not enjoyed a full participation in all public employments, and the country should be assured that His Majesty cannot desire that such *odious* distinctions should be systematically maintained"

3. *Resolved*, That notwithstanding the above assurances, the people of this country are at present under the necessity of again complaining that the same systematic, partial, and unjust exclusion from office, has continued to be followed up by His Excellency MATTHEW Lord AYLMER, the present Governor in Chief, who, since his appointment to office, has called to several permanent situations of profit in the civil departments, twenty-three or more persons, besides a great many in the Customs, of all of whom only *eight* are Canadians of French origin. (*Vide Table on eighth page.*)

4. *Resolved*, That notwithstanding the assurances of His Majesty's Government above alluded to, His Excellency Lord AYLMER has moreover selected for the Judicial Departments in both the higher and lower Courts of this Province, violent partizans as instanced in this late nomination of the major part of the Commissioners for the Summary Trial of Small Causes in the Country parts; on which occasion, contrary to the spirit of the Law, and to the former practice of himself and his predecessor, he has excluded from such office several persons recommended to him by the proprietors who had called for the establishment of such Commissioners' Courts, (which persons had already filled such offices with advantage to the public and honour to themselves) and appointed others who had no other recommendation than their known subserviency to His Excellency's political bias, and hostility to the opinions of the mass of the people.

5. *Resolved*, That the recent appointment of SAMUEL GALE, Esquire, to a seat on the Bench in this District, is another particularly obnoxious instance of the violation of His Majesty's Gracious assurance contained in the aforesaid Despatch, and of the whole spirit of both the Canada Reports, and of the pledges of the Colonial Office, and unaccountably well calculated to continue those animosities and misconceptions lately recommended to be removed, inasmuch as the said SAMUEL GALE was throughout a notorious political sup-

porter of the bad Administration against which the people of this Province did, in 1827, successfully complain; to oppose which complaints and to support which obnoxious Administration the said SAMUEL GALE was deputed to England, where he evinced in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons the most violent and unfounded prejudices against the language of the people of this Country and their laws, which laws he is now called to administer to the great injury of the majority of His Majesty's subjects in this District, who, after the declarations on his part contained in that evidence, cannot have any confidence in such a man as a Judge.

6. *Resolved*, That by the aforesaid nominations, and repeated violations of the assurances contained in the Despatch above referred to, which were based on the Report of the Canada Committee of 1828, and especially by the recent appointment of the said SAMUEL GALE to the Bench, in manifest contradiction with the terms and spirit of the Report of the Canada Committee of 1834, the confidence of His Majesty's subjects in the sincerity of the professions of His Majesty's Government is very much disturbed—His Excellency Lord AYLMER having identified thereby his administration with that of the wicked and tyrannical Earl of Dalhouse, and afforded, if such were necessary, further proof of His Excellency's utter incapacity to govern impartially, and of his having forfeited anew all claim to the respect and confidence of His Majesty's subjects in this province.

Ordered, That copies of the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary, and Messrs. VIGER, MORIN, and ROEBUCK.

No further business being before the CONVENTION, the meeting was adjourned to the *first* THURSDAY in OCTOBER next.

Permanent Appointments to Places *of Profit* made by His Excellency Lord Aydmer, Governor-in-Chief of Lower Canada, as far as the same can be correctly ascertained :—

*1. Mr. Panet, appointed Judge at Quebec—succeeded a French Canadian.
2. Mr. Stewart Scott, Clerk of the Peace, &c.
3. Mr. Antrobus, Provincial Aide-de-Camp—succeeded a French Canadian.
4. Mr. Chisholme, Coroner at Three Rivers—succeeded a French Canadian.
5. Mr. Davidson, Clerk of the Court of Chancery.
*6. H. S. Huot, Esq., Secretary of Marine Hospital.
7. Mr. Hatts, (Mr. Watts,) in the Department of Civil Secretary.
8. Mr. Willan, Clerk Criminal Court at Quebec.
9. Mr. Gale, appointed Judge at Montreal.
*10. P. L. Panet, Grand Voyer, Montreal—succeeded a French Canadian.
*11. H. Heney, Esq., Do., Three Rivers—succeeded a French Canadian.
*12. Dr. Fortier, Health Officer at Grosse Isle—succeeded a French Canadian.
13. Colonel Craig, appointed Civil Secretary.
14. C. R. Ogden, Esq., Attorney-General.
15. Michael O'Sullivan, Esq., Solicitor-General.
*16. Michel Bibaud, Esq., Inspector of Weights—succeeded a French Canadian.
17. Martin Sheppard, Esq., Sheriff of Gaspé.
18. T. Lloyd, Esq. Registrar for the County of Megantic.
*19. Alexr. Delisle, Clerk Peace and Crown, conjointly with his father.
20. John Sewell, Esq., Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod of the Legislative Council—succeeded a French Canadian.
21. Joseph Fenwick, Marshal of the Vice-Admiralty Court.
22. W. Muir, Esq., Registrar for the County of Megantic, in place of Mr. Lloyd, resigned.
*23. Ed. Desbarats, Esq., Clerk Court Appeals—succeeded a French Canadian.

Thus (*) marked are French Canadians.

In the above List the appointments of Health Commissioners are omitted, as they were not permanent. Mr. Justice Panet was appointed to succeed a Canadian Judge, deceased.

RECAPITULATION.

Total number of Appointments, - - -	23
French Canadians, - - - - - -	8†

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† Of these, seven succeeded French Canadians.